

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David Burse on January 9, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 13, lines 9-10, "a substantial majority" has been deleted and -- a majority -- has been inserted.

In claim 24, line 5, "such that such the support" has been deleted and -- such that the support -- has been inserted.

In claim 40, line 1, "claim 39, wherein the step" has been deleted and -- claim 39, further comprising the step -- has been inserted.

In claim 40, line 2, "device <sup>comprises</sup> ~~comprising~~ creating" has been deleted and -- device by creating -- has been inserted.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest a suction device for use with an operational instrument wherein the instrument is removably attachable via a connector on the device that positions operational elements of the instrument within a specific region of a suction pod. U.S. Patent 6,849,075 teaches a suction device for an operational instrument where the instrument is removably connected to a slot between suction ports. This is a different structure that does not allow

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